



# KEY NOTES

e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Oct. 20, 2011

## Pride Returns to the Chesapeake



*The Pride of Baltimore II* sails into Washington, D.C. on Oct. 18. *Pride* returned to the Chesapeake Bay earlier this month after completing a five-month goodwill voyage to promote [Star-Spangled 200](#), Maryland's upcoming bicentennial commemoration. Learn more about the [2011 Pride Sail](#). Photo by [Gangplank Sliholders Association](#).

## Maryland firm's '1812 flags' raise funds for nonprofits

In time for Veterans Day, Marylanders can purchase commemorative 15-star, 15-stripe American flags that are modeled after the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the National Anthem following the all-night British bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814.

An official announcement about the flags will be made, Tuesday, Nov. 8, in Havre de Grace at F.W. Haxel, the manufacturer of the flags. F.W. Haxel has been a family-owned and operated Maryland company since it was established in 1935.

The flags have the official [Star-Spangled 200](#) bicentennial logo and are available in two versions on the [company's web site](#): a printed nylon flag (\$20); and a limited-

### In this Issue

#### News in brief

[Maryland firm's '1812 flags' raise funds for nonprofits](#)

[Maritime festival launches bicentennial in June](#)

[PBS offers mobile app, book, DVD with 1812 project](#)

[Sotterley still recovering from hurricane damage](#)

[Documentary to feature search for flagship Scorpion](#)

#### Exhibits & events

[Maryland Historical Society opens 1812 exhibit](#)

[Havre de Grace museums showcase 1812-era](#)

[Fort McHenry celebrates new exhibit, Veterans Day](#)

[Bring the 1812 traveling exhibit to your area](#)

[Dance troupe offers 1812-era performances](#)

#### Around Maryland

[1812 partners develop exhibits in St. Mary's County](#)

[Bladensburg group trumpets 'undaunted' image](#)

[Video about Battle of North Point wins contest](#)

edition, sewn nylon flag with appliqued stars (\$73.50). Proceeds benefit three nonprofit (501c3) organizations: [The American Flag Foundation](#), [Friends of Fort McHenry](#) and [The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House](#).

"Buying a commemorative flag supports the bicentennial and also a Maryland small business," said Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne Dougherty. The mayor will join Harford County Executive David Craig, Cecil County Commissioner President Jim Mullin, and representatives of the three nonprofits and veterans groups at the Nov. 8 event.

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## Maritime festival launches bicentennial in June

Gov. Martin O'Malley and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, along with Jose Fuentes, chairman of Operation Sail, Inc. (Op Sail) and the U.S. Navy, will soon announce plans for a maritime festival in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, June 13-19, 2012, which launches Maryland's War of 1812 bicentennial commemoration.

The announcement will be made during a public news conference, Nov. 17, 11:30 a.m., at the Inner Harbor near the Baltimore Visitor Center.

Dozens of international tall ships and navy gray hulls are expected to sail into Baltimore for the festival. Fuentes said in an earlier statement that tall ships from Russia, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and the U.S. are the first confirmed participants in a U.S. multi-port bicentennial commemoration that [Op Sail](#) and the [U.S. Navy](#) are coordinating.

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## PBS offers mobile app, book, DVD of film with 1812 project

Nearly 300 people joined Gov. Martin O'Malley, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and State Sen. President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. at the Landmark Theatres Harbor East Cinema in Baltimore, Sept. 26, for a highlighted version of The War of 1812, a new two-hour PBS documentary that aired nationwide on Oct. 10.

The film includes re-enactments, animation and commentary from 26 American, British, Canadian and Native-American historians. In addition to this documentary, the PBS War of 1812 project includes a [mobile application](#), *The War of 1812: Guide to Historic Sites App*, which is available for free at app stores. The guide allows users to explore the more than 115 locations tied to the war.

A companion book, *The War of 1812: A Guide to Battlefields and Historic Sites*, [is available from PBS](#). It is illustrated with more than 120 color photographs and archival paintings. An e-book version is available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and the App Store. And, PBS' [1812-dedicated web site](#) also offers [educational resources for teachers](#) and a DVD of the documentary.

[New 1812 group formed in Somerset](#)

### Featured site

[Star Spangled Banner Flag House](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Todd's Inheritance Bull Roost](#)

Oct. 21

[Secrets of a Seaport lecture series: Fell's Point 1800 – 1814](#)

Oct. 26

[Dedication of new Archeology Room](#)

Oct. 27 2011

[Community History Day](#)

Oct. 29

[Secrets of a Seaport lecture series: Fell's Point 1812 – 1814, The War of 1812](#)

Nov. 2

[Star-Spangled Flag Press Event](#)

Nov. 8

[Maritime Festival Press Event](#)

Nov. 17

[Veterans Day Weekend at Fort McHenry](#)

Nov. 11

## Recent News

[Teaching War of 1812 to be subject of Saturday workshop in Havre de Grace](#), *BaltimoreSun.com*

[War of 1812 event organizers courting D.C.-area sponsors](#), *Washington Business Journal*

[Reliving the battle](#), *SoMdNews.Com*

## Sotterley still recovering from hurricane damage



Various buildings and the property at [Sotterley Plantation](#) (last month's featured site) are in need of repair after Hurricane Irene struck in late August. A National Historic Landmark located on the banks of the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland, Sotterley dates back to at least 1717.

"Donations to help with the massive clean-up effort are vital and will be tremendously appreciated," said Nancy Easterling, Sotterley's executive director. "There are so many who love and understand the importance of this site, and we know with the support of this amazing community, we can restore Sotterley and preserve it for future generations."

The cost for removal of more than 30 downed trees presents the most pressing problem at Sotterley. Insurance is expected to cover much of the structural damage.

"Although this is devastating, we were so incredibly fortunate," Easterling said. "The 1703 Plantation House is in good shape despite near misses by several enormous trees. Our newly restored Slave Cabin, while affected, is still intact."

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## Documentary to feature search for flagship *Scorpion*

Underwater filmmaker Nick Caloyianis recorded portions of the excavation work done this past summer in connection with a project to identify a War of 1812 wreck that may be the [Scorpion](#), flagship of Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla. Maryland Public Television is producing a 30-minute documentary about the project. A second crew, YAP Films, also filmed the excavation for a Canadian documentary about the War of 1812.

The gunboats and barges that made up the Flotilla engaged and delayed the invading British navy during the Battles of St. Leonard in 1814.

In preparation for the upcoming bicentennial of the war, the State Highway Administration's Cultural Resources Section has partnered with the U.S. Navy and Maryland Historical Trust to conduct the [underwater archeology project](#).

Though archeologists are not certain if the wreck is the *Scorpion*, recovered artifacts and construction of the submerged ship indicate a War of 1812-era vessel.

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## Maryland Historical Society opens 1812 exhibit

The original manuscript of The Star-Spangled Banner – with Francis Scott Key's penned corrections – is on display as part of the [Maryland Historical Society's new exhibit](#), *With Broad Stripes and Bright Stars*, a collection that focuses on Baltimore's

Read more [news](#).

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

### Nov. 1

[Star-Spangled 200 Grants](#)

Maryland Humanities Council  
[Opportunity Grants](#)

Institute of Museum and Library Services

[Museums for America Grants](#)

### Nov. 3

Maryland State Arts Council  
[Grants for Organizations](#)  
(Intent to Apply)

### Dec. 1

Heritage Preservation  
[Conservation Assessment Program](#)

American Association of Museums  
[Museum Assessment Program](#)

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Implementation grants](#)

### Dec. 8

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Collaborative Research Grants](#)

National Endowment for the Humanities  
[Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants](#)

Maryland State Arts Council  
[Grants for Organizations](#)

### Dec. 15

Institute of Museum and Library Services  
[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#)

role in the War of 1812.

Other items in the exhibit include Rembrandt Peale's portraits of four of "Baltimore's Defenders of 1814" – Samuel Smith, George Armistead, John Stricker and Isaac McKim. Also on display is the "Etting Cup," a blackened tankard that was etched with the signatures of the militia men who were at North Point and Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore.

Society officials say this exhibition is a sneak preview of an extensive War of 1812 collection. Additional items will be displayed during Maryland's War of 1812 bicentennial period, 2012 through 2014. Founded in 1844, the Society occupies an entire city block in Baltimore's Mount Vernon district. For more information, call 410-685-3750.

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## Havre de Grace museums showcase 1812-era



Heritage Museums of Havre de Grace – a group of six local museums – plans a free [Community History Day](#), Saturday, Oct. 29 at St. Patrick's Hall in Havre de Grace. This event highlights early 19th-century history through demonstrations of period music, dance and craftsmanship. Other history-related organizations will offer presentations pertaining to archeology and genealogy.

Event organizers encourage visitors to bring old documents, photographs, paintings, furniture and collectibles.

Appraisers will be available at the event and a crew from

Maryland Public Television's Chesapeake Collectibles will film unique items for broadcast on the show.

The six heritage museums – Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's House; Havre de Grace Maritime Museum; Havre de Grace Decoy Museum; Steppingstone Museum; Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House; and the skipjack Martha Lewis – are launching a joint effort to educate the public about the impact of the War of 1812 on Havre de Grace. Called The War of 1812: Havre de Grace Under Fire, the project has received funding from Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

For more information, call or [e-mail](#) Heidi Glatfelter, 443-928-3383.

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## Fort McHenry celebrates new exhibit, Veterans Day

A new archeology exhibit will be dedicated at [Fort McHenry National Historic Shrine](#), Thursday evening, Oct. 27. The display provides a glimpse of daily life for the soldiers at the fort during the Battle of Baltimore in 1814. Following the ceremony, visitors can take a ranger-led candlelight walk through the fort and learn about the secret tunnels, apparitions and strange noises that are part of the fort's folklore. Admission is free.

[National Medal for Museum and Library Service](#)

### Links



[Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#)



[Star-Spangled 200, Inc.](#)



[Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail](#)



[Baltimore National Heritage Area](#)

[Battle of Bladensburg](#)

[Eastern Shore 1812 Consortium](#)

[Historic Prince George's](#)



[Upper Bay War of 1812](#)

Fort McHenry also plans a Veterans Day Weekend, Nov. 11-13, which includes ranger talks, musical concerts, exhibitions and living-history presentations. Best known as “the birthplace of the National Anthem,” Fort McHenry has been used for military service during numerous U.S. wars since 1812. Admission is \$7 for adults, free for children (under 16).

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## Bring the 1812 traveling exhibit to your area



Two versions of a traveling exhibit – *Defense of the Nation: Maryland in the War of 1812* – are available for display at venues in both the Baltimore area and the region. Call or [e-mail](#) Ernie Dinsmore, exhibit coordinator, at 410-627-8237, to discuss locations and scheduling. The Baltimore National Heritage Area created the exhibits with grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the National Park Service.

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## Dance troupe offers 1812-era performances

[Choregraphie Antique](#) – a dance ensemble made up of students, alumni and friends of the Goucher College Dance Department – is available to entertain audiences with 1812-era dances. The ensemble, which offers dances from various eras in American history, performs in period costumes and provides researched narratives to accompany their presentations.

Established in 1988, Choregraphie Antique has performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra and the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble. It has also performed at Colonial Williamsburg, the Smithsonian Institution, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore Museum of Art, Mount Vernon Plantation, Maryland Historical Society, Riversdale Mansion and the Maryland State House.

The ensemble will be at [Community History Day](#) in Havre de Grace, Oct. 29. For more information or to arrange a performance, call or [e-mail](#) Chrystelle Trump Bond, 410-337-6391, at Goucher College.

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## 1812 partners develop exhibits in St. Mary's County

In a collaborative effort with the St. Mary's County Division of Tourism and the St. Mary's County War of 1812 Committee, the [St. Mary's County Historical Society](#) and [Patuxent River Naval Air Museum](#) are creating War of 1812 exhibits that will serve as orientation points for bicentennial visitors by early 2012. The Historical Society's display at Tudor Hall in Leonardtown will illustrate the town's role in the war. An exhibit at the museum will depict the Battle of Cedar Point, which occurred nearby. Funding for the project has come from a Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium grant.



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## Bladensburg group trumpets 'undaunted' image



The Battle of Bladensburg Task Force has updated its [web site](#) and logo, in anticipation of new marketing and interpretive programming. Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, which developed the web site and logo, also manages marketing and events for the group. Sections of the web site feature history, commemoration plans, a walking tour and logo merchandise. The logo incorporates American and British flags crossed over each other with the words "Undaunted, Battle of Bladensburg, 1814" below.

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## Video about Battle of North Point wins contest

Marylander Bob Dannenfelser's video depicting the Battle of North Point in the War of 1812 won a contest presented by [History Matters](#), an organization that promotes historical-preservation projects in communities across the U.S. *New York Times* bestselling author Steve Berry, who operates *History Matters* with his wife Elizabeth Berry, said he would soon announce plans to come to Baltimore in the spring and help to raise money to build a monument that honors the defenders of Baltimore during the Battle of North Point. Dannenfelser called his video *The Other Battle of Baltimore*.

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## New 1812 group formed in Somerset

Somerset County has established a committee to organize and oversee all activities related to the local commemoration of the War of 1812 bicentennial. Warner Sumpter – director of public safety at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore – chairs the committee. Sumpter is a former assistant adjutant general and commander of the Maryland Army National Guard.

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## Featured Site

### The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House



Mary Young Pickersgill, born in Philadelphia in 1776, moved with her family to Baltimore when she was a child. She learned flag-making from her mother, Rebecca Young, who worked at that trade during and after the Revolutionary War. She went back to live in Philadelphia after marrying John Pickersgill in 1795. After he died, Mary Pickersgill returned to Baltimore in 1806 with her widowed mother and her young daughter, Caroline. They lived at 44 Queen St. – now 844 E. Pratt St. She established a home-based flag-making business, filling orders from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and merchant ships that came to Baltimore.

Prior to the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812, Maj. George Armistead, commander at Fort McHenry, commissioned Pickersgill to create a flag "so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance." In six weeks, with assistance from her daughter and two servants, she made an American flag that measured 30 feet by 42 feet, using 400 yards of fabric. The flag flew over Fort McHenry and was the inspiration for Francis Scott Key's poem, which became the lyrics for the National Anthem.

In 1927, the city of Baltimore purchased the Pickersgill house and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association established a museum in it. The property was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969. Today, the Flag House is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Flag House campus is available for private rentals.

<http://www.flaghouse.org/>  
844 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
(Baltimore City)

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**Correction:** Queen Anne's County is sponsoring Bash of the Bands 1812, not the Eastern Shore Consortium as reported in the September issue of *Key Notes*. The event, which features bands from schools throughout the region performing 1812-era music, will be held June 9-10 at Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville.

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*Key Notes* is the monthly e-newsletter of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Send information about your bicentennial planning efforts to [Kate Marks](#) for inclusion in future issues.

PDF files of previous issues of *Key Notes* are available on the Commission's [web site](#).

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